



Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Commissioner's NEWSLETTER

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Former Fish and Wildlife Commission Member Dr. Robert C. Webb dies

Dr. Robert C. Webb, former chairman and member of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission for more than three decades, died Tuesday, February 5, at King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland after a long illness. He was 85.

Dr. Webb retired from the commission in August, 2006, after representing Kentucky's Eighth Fish and Wildlife District for 32 years, longer than any other commission member.

He was nominated by the District's sportsmen and sports-women and appointed to his first 4-year term by Gov. Edward T. Breathitt in August 1966 to represent Bath, Bourbon, Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Lewis, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Rowan and Wolfe counties.

He was reappointed by governors Louie Nunn in 1970, Wendell Ford in 1974, Julian Carroll in 1978, John Y. Brown in 1982, Martha Layne Collins in 1986 and Paul Patton in 1998 and 2002. He served during the administrations of nine Kentucky governors.

Dr. Webb was a practicing optometrist in Grayson for more than 50 years before his retirement.

"Doc was a big 'Junior Club' man," said nephew Jay Webb, Assistant Director of the Department

of Fish and Wildlife's Information and Education Division. "The Junior Conservation Clubs were organized groups of boys in junior high and high school who would shoot trap and moskeet on school property. They were the precursors to our conservation education in the schools programs.

"Doc was a strong advocate for teaching conservation in our schools," he added. "The 85,000 Kentucky middle school students who Department conservation educators reach in the classrooms each year are a tremendous piece of his legacy."

Camp Robert C. Webb, dedicated in 1969, is located on Grayson Lake in Carter County and is one of three department-operated conservation camps that host about 6,000 5th and 6th grade campers each summer.

"It was no secret that he was a fierce protector of all things Eighth District," added Jay Webb, a note of seriousness mixed with a chuckle. "He looked after 'his boys' as he often referred to department employees in the district, and when they trapped grouse there to feed restorations in other parts of the state, that fired him up too."

He also played a pivotal role in numerous wildlife restorations.



Eighth District Commission Member Dr. Robert C. Webb (top photo) grinned for the camera during his final commission meeting in June 2006. Below, he was joined by nephew Jay Webb, assistant director of Information and Education Division, daughter State Representative Robin Webb, and his wife Linda, after attending a session of the state legislature in 2006 when the House of Representatives passed a resolution remembering his life, contributions to Fish and Wildlife and other achievements.

See "Webb," page 2



Sergeant John Anderson

Sgt. Anderson to receive NWSC award for 2007 Boating Safety Campaign

Sergeant John Anderson has been selected to receive an Award of Merit from the National Water Safety Congress (NWSC) for his efforts in developing the 2007 Kentucky Boating Safety Campaign.

The award will be presented at the NWSC Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 18, 2008, during the International Boating and Water Safety Summit in San Diego, CA.

The National Water Safety Congress

Regional Vice President nominates persons for this award that made a significant contribution or an outstanding effort to enhance or promote water safety at the local or state level.

The campaign that Sgt. Anderson put together incorporated the Kentucky State Police in a dual effort to curb Driving Under the Influence (DUI) as well as Boating Under the Influence (BUI). This was the first joint venture of its kind in Kentucky.

The campaign used a three-pronged approach of print, radio and television in taking the message to the public. The department's Kentucky Afield staff filmed the television spots and our appreciation goes out to them.

The Department appreciates the participation of the Kentucky State Police in our efforts to ensure all boaters on Kentucky's waterways enjoyed a safe summer boating season.

Sgt. Anderson's professionalism, diligence and untiring efforts contributed, in no small way, to the success of the campaign.



"Webb," continued

During his tenure, Kentucky's white-tailed deer herd grew from 20,000 animals to nearly a million and became one of the nation's highest in quality as well.

The state's wild turkey flock grew from 1,000 birds isolated in just a few wild areas to more than a quarter-of-a-million spread across the entire Commonwealth.

Free ranging wild elk returned after a 150-year absence and today the herd is nearing 7,300.

During his tenure, he also provided guidance and oversight for other restorations as well, including peregrine falcons, osprey, river otters and more.

"Dr. Webb dedicated his life to wild-

life conservation and education and clearly played a pivotal role in bettering the lives of all Kentuckians," said Dr. Jon Gasset, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "His work will continue to positively impact us for generations to come."

In March 1996, just a few months before Webb's retirement from the Commission, the Kentucky House of Representatives recognized his dedication to Kentucky's natural resources with a resolution upon their adjournment. "Dr. Robert C. Webb has served the people of the Commonwealth for more than three decades as a member of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission, striving to protect

Kentucky's wondrous natural beauty, and the wildlife that is a vital part of the cycle of nature," House members said in their resolution.

Dr. Webb is survived by his wife, Linda; a daughter, State Representative Robin Webb; a son, Robert Webb and four grandchildren.

A Conservation Camp Scholarship Fund has been established in his name and anyone wishing to contribute to the fund may send a contribution, payable to KDFWR, to the attention of Jay Webb @ KDFWR, 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601.

The scholarship fund will be used to assist disadvantaged youth in attending Conservation Camp.

KDFWR welcomes 8 new employees

Wildlife Division welcomes the following staff:

Brooke Slack received her BS in Wildlife from Ohio State University and is completing her Thesis at ECU. She will be working as LIP Coordinator and also has expertise in caving and working with bats.

Kory Knight has returned to the LIP Crew as Crew Leader and will oversee projects requesting habitat improvement practices across the state. Kory received his BS in Wildlife Management from Murray State University.

Danny Hughes has rejoined the Wildlife Division. Danny is a Graduate of ECU and after almost 5 years working for the Department, he moved to a position with NRCS. He has worked the last three and one half years at NRCS and although quickly moving up the ranks within their organization, he recently decided to come back to KDFWR. He will be working in Wayne County as the Area 2 Farm Bill Liaison and we are very pleased to have him back.

Bryan Dolen has joined the SE Wildlife Region as a Fish and Wildlife Technician. He will be working with Wes Hodges on numerous WMAs in the eastern part of the region. Bryan is a graduate of Wayne County High School and has an Associates degree in Arts from Somerset Community College. He has recently been working toward his Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management at Eastern Kentucky University. Past agency experience includes a stint as a nine month seasonal technician at Beaver Creek WMA. Bryan is an avid deer and turkey hunter and has a strong interest in numerous outdoor activities.

Thad Manuwal joined the agency on February 6 as a Wildlife Biologist working in the Captive Wildlife/Permitting Program. Thad received a MS in Biology from the University of North Dakota where he studied mule deer. His diverse work experience



Donations make new camp bathhouse a reality

Partnerships can make things happen. Thanks to the generosity of National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) members, work is now underway on a new handicap accessible bathhouse at Camp Robert C. Webb in Carter County. Local, state and national members donated \$11,000 for materials to build the new facility. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, which operates the camp, is matching the donation.

"About anytime I ask for anything from the NWTF's local chapter, they come through," said Camp Superintendent Gary Bailey. "They're a tremendous help."

Federation members previously paid for camp rifles, shotguns, 3-D targets and even scholarships for kids to

attend camp. The bathhouse is the biggest donation yet.

The bathhouse will serve 24 campers staying in the Turkey Cabin. Handicapped hunters participating in the annual Wheeling Sportsmen deer hunt can also use the new facility. Previously, campers used a nearby portable toilet or walked to another bathhouse. The camp has one other handicap accessible bathhouse.

Materials will cost around \$21,000. Camp staff will do the majority of construction work. Bailey said the project would have cost around \$45,000 if contracted out.

Camp employees also renovated the staff cabin, giving it new siding, windows and roof.

experience regarding the effects of introduced wildlife on native species make him an excellent candidate for this position.

Erin Harper started February 11 as a Fish and Wildlife Technician II and is stationed in Frankfort. Erin will assist

the Migratory Bird Program with surveys, banding and shorebird management activities.

Erin has a Bachelor of Science in

See "Employees," page 4

Trophy walleye in the Lake Cumberland tailwater



Southeastern Fishery District Assistant Biologist Marcy Anderson holds a 14.6 pound walleye collected from the Lake Cumberland tailwater.

at 14.6 pounds.

This big walleye was collected downstream of hatchery creek, along with several other good size walleye, sauger, and striped bass.

Late winter and early spring is a prime time to fish for big walleye and sauger near Wolf Creek Dam as fish concentrate below the dam during their upstream spawning migrations.

Fortunately, for anglers, this walleye was too large for the aquarium. The walleye was measured, weighed, and released back into the tailwater.

The current state record walleye is 21 pounds, 8 ounces, and was caught by Mr. Abe Black of Shaker Heights, OH. The fish was caught from Lake Cumberland on October 1, 1958.

Fisheries personnel from the Southeastern Fishery District were helping collect trout for the display aquarium at the

Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery visitor center when they collected an impressive 30.9 inch walleye, which topped the scales

"Employees," continued

Wildlife Management from Eastern Kentucky University and a Master of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Arkansas Tech University. Prior to joining the Migratory Bird Program, Erin worked as a Conservation Education Program Leader in the Information and Education Division at the Salato Wildlife Center. Erin is an avid runner and bird watcher.

Information and Education Division welcomes its newest CEPL, **Jamie Cook** to the Salato Wildlife Education Center. During 2007, Jamie worked at Salato as an interim, conducting school programs, deal-

ing with numerous customers, and even creating his first exhibit on Tree Stand Safety for National Hunting and Fishing Day. Jamie received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management from ECU in 2004.

Prior to joining the KDFWR, he served as Assistant Director of the Staffing Team for Springhill Camps in Evart, Michigan, hiring, training, and evaluating the performance of 750 summer staff members. Quite a job! He also worked as an Ecology and Conservation Director with Boy Scouts of America, instructing merit badge classes on fish and wildlife management, soil and water conservation,

environmental science, and forestry.

As a student he studied trap selection by male red eared sliders and assisted graduate students collecting data on habitat use by aquatic turtles and small mammals. As a student of Dr. Charles Elliott, he also did his fair share of deer checks and goose roundups! Last, but not least, Jamie is an Eagle Scout and served as President of the ECU Wildlife Society. The Salato Center is thrilled to have an employee with Jamie's background both in wildlife management and work with children. If you get the chance, please come back to meet him!

Winter is time to improve lake habitat across Kentucky

Most anglers in Kentucky begin to gear up for the fishing season in March. Fortunately for all Kentucky anglers, fisheries district biologists and technicians have been gearing up since January, gathering and constructing various types of fish habitat.

The winter season is a prime time for the construction and placement of fish habitat across the Commonwealth in lakes as large as Kentucky Lake to the smaller, department owned lakes including Mauzy Lake.

The winter drawdown period in many flood control reservoirs provides an ideal opportunity to place fish habitat on exposed shorelines that will become inundated during the spring.

Throughout the Southeast, fish habitat is constructed from a variety of materials including recycled trees, PVC, wooden palates, concrete block, stakes, and gravel. The number of designs available is limited only by one's imagination.

Most fish habitat structures are placed in areas to help concentrate fish for anglers, however, fish habitat is also used to provide spawning habitat for adult fish, as well as nursery areas for young and juveniles.

In lakes such as Barren River and Green River Lake, fisheries personnel are assisted by local fishing clubs and other volunteers. These partnerships foster public relations with angler groups on an annual basis.

Below is a short summary of the fish habitat work that has occurred this winter or will occur during the upcoming weeks:

- **Kentucky Lake:** 181 trees placed
- **Nolin River Lake:** 80 trees placed
- **Mauzy Lake:** 15 trees placed

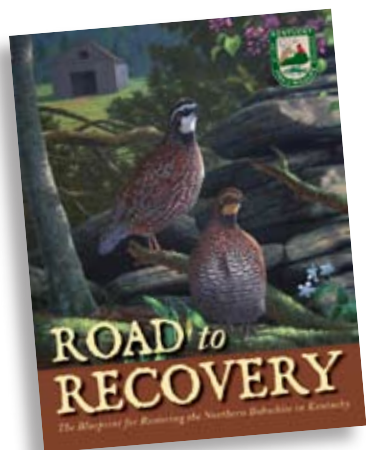


Tim Abney, Northwest Fishery District Technician, prepares to deploy several fish habitat structures in a local lake.



Recycled Christmas trees are placed along a creek channel in Blood River, Kentucky Lake. These trees will be inundated during the spring when Kentucky Lake reaches summer pool elevation, providing habitat for bass, panfish, and catfish.

- **Peabody WMA:** 7 wooden palate structures and 120 trees placed
- **Barren River Lake:** 350 trees and 8 wooden stakebeds placed
- **West Fork Drakes Reservoir:** 70 trees placed
- **Green River Lake:** 300 trees placed
- **Cave Run Lake:** 360 trees placed
- **Martin County Lake:** 32 trees placed
- **Buckhorn Lake:** 65 trees placed, 3 wood palate structures, and 200 lbs of wheat sowed.
- **Dewey Lake:** 70 trees placed
- **Fishtrap Lake:** 40 trees placed
- **Carr Creek Lake:** 20 trees placed
- **Laurel River Lake:** 150 trees placed



Bobwhite blueprint ready for the presses

By John Morgan, Small Game Coordinator

Eleven months ago, nine Wildlife Division staff attended a workshop in Jasper, IN to identify potential focus areas to restore bobwhite. The gathering brought professionals from Tennessee, Indiana, Missouri, and Kentucky together to elevate the effort for range-wide quail restoration.

The Wildlife Division used the event as a springboard to create a 10-year restoration plan for the Commonwealth.

To produce a statewide bobwhite blueprint, the small game program leaned heavily on the knowledge and expertise of staff throughout the Wildlife Division. The work started by creating a county-based model to prioritize counties with respect to restoring quail. Counties were classified as high, moderate, low, or very low potential for quail restoration.

With the model and staff input, we identified focal areas on public and private lands that ranged from 10,000 to 30,000 acres in size. Focal areas had modest quail populations, and they presented the opportunity for measurable increases in bobwhite in a 10-year period.

Those efforts laid the foundation for regional brain storm sessions. Small game

See "Bobwhite," page 7

TAYLORSVILLE LAKE WMA MOIST-SOIL MANAGEMENT



Wildlife Division Game Management Foreman Bill Mitchell pumped about 6.3 million gallons of water from Beech Creek in December 2007 to fill the four adjacent moist soil management units on the northern end of Taylorsville Lake WMA.

The units were created and the pump was bought in partnership with Ducks Unlimited to create shallow water habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, reptiles and amphibians, and other wetland-associated wildlife.

The moist-soil units along Beech Creek can be hunted, whereas those along the Salt River are closed to hunting as part of the WMA's Waterfowl Refuge during the winter months for use by wintering and migrating waterfowl.



Kentucky Angler Sets New Line Class Record

When Mike Haynes of Logan County left his home one morning in June to enjoy the day crappie fishing on Lake Barkley, he didn't realize that this day might be different than any previous fishing trip.

After several hours of crappie fishing in Dry Creek, he hooked into something quite a bit larger than a crappie. Following a 15 minute battle, using 6 pound test line, he landed a large grass carp.

Mr. Haynes weighed the fish, unofficially, which turned out to be slightly less than the current Kentucky state record of 55 lbs, 8 ounces. Upon returning to the boat ramp, he met Western Fishery District personnel Kenneth Bucy and Neal Jackson who encouraged Mr. Haynes to weigh the fish on an official scale as a potential line class record.

The grass carp officially weighed 53 pounds, 4 ounces, on a certified scale and was approved by the International Game Fish Association as the new world 6 pound test line class record for grass carp on October 12, 2007.

Mr. Haynes recently sent a letter of thanks to the Department saying, "Without their help, I would not have even considered trying to jump through all the hoops necessary to get a world line class record certified."

Not only is Kentucky home to the world record smallmouth, but is also home to the new world 6 pound test line class record for grass carp.

Mike Haynes with a new International Game Fish Association world 6 pound line test class record for grass carp (53 pounds, 4 ounces).

"Bobwhite," continued

program staff facilitated the forums based on the following goals: 1) Stabilize bobwhite populations statewide, 2) Increase bobwhite populations in focus areas, 3) Increase bobwhite on focal Wildlife Management Areas, 4) Increase statewide recreation related to bobwhite, and 5) Generate funding mechanisms to support bobwhite restoration.

Countless strategies were generated to address each goal. Those strategies were

organized by a series of challenges within each goal. Assessments for success were defined at the challenge and goal level for the 10-year period.

Finally, the plan was shared with conservation partners including the American Bird Conservancy, Kentucky Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Quail Forever, and Quail Unlimited.

The drab assemblage of documents needed a facelift. Who's better at beautification than I&E's Adrienne Yancy, Rick

Hill, and Obie Williams? When it comes to graphic design and wildlife art, then I'd argue nobody!

You will soon be receiving a copy of the glossy, full-color, 33-page restoration plan. We hope you take the time to read it. Please pass along your thoughts and ideas as we move forward with implementation.

Bringing back the bobwhite will be the most difficult wildlife restoration ever attempted. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of this unprecedented effort!

New sport fishing regulations take effect on March 1, 2008

March 1, 2008 will represent the start of the new 2008 fishing season. Several regulation changes will take effect at the start of the fishing season including:

- Cave Run Lake: 18-inch minimum size limit on smallmouth bass.
- Cedar Creek Lake: The 9-inch minimum size limit on crappie is now removed. Bluegill and redear sunfish now under statewide regulations for minimum size and daily creel limits. A 12-inch minimum size limit and no daily creel limit on channel catfish.
- Dix River from Herrington Lake Dam downstream for two miles: Brown trout now under statewide regulations for minimum size and daily creel limits.
- Doe Run Lake: Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited. A 15-inch minimum size limit with a 3 fish daily creel limit on largemouth bass. A 4 fish daily creel limit on channel catfish with no minimum size limit.
- Fishpond Lake: Boats with electric (trolling) motors only are now allowed on Fishpond Lake.
- General Butler State Park Lake: Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited. A 15-inch minimum size limit with a 3 fish daily creel limit on largemouth bass. A 4 fish daily creel limit on channel catfish with no minimum size limit.
- Kentucky and Barkley Lakes: The daily creel limit on crappie is now 20 fish per day.
- Lake Blythe: A 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit on largemouth bass. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches must be immediately released.
- Lake Jerico: Possession and or use of shad for bait is prohibited.
- Lakes Mingo, Pollywog and Shelby: A 15-inch minimum size limit with a 3 fish daily creel limit on largemouth bass. A 4 fish daily creel limit on channel catfish with no minimum size limit.
- Laurel River Lake: 2 fish daily creel limit on smallmouth bass.
- Leary Lake: Bluegill now under statewide regulations for minimum size and creel limits.
- Martin County Lake: Boats with electric (trolling) motors only are now allowed on Martin County Lake.
- Mauzy Lake: Largemouth bass now under statewide regulations for minimum size and daily creel limits.
- New Haven Optimist Lake: A 15-inch minimum size limit with a 3 fish daily creel limit on largemouth bass. A 4 fish daily creel limit on channel catfish with no minimum size limit.
- Peabody WMA: Goose, Island, and South Lakes: Bluegill, redbreast sunfish, channel catfish, and walleye now under statewide regulations for minimum size and daily creel limits.
- Taylorsville Lake WMA ponds: 3 fish daily creel limit on largemouth bass.
- Gigging, snagging, and bowfishing is now allowed on all trout streams except for the Cumberland River from Wolf Creek Dam to the Tennessee state line. This includes Hatchery Creek and all other tributaries of this section of the Cumberland River for ½ mile upstream of their confluence with the Cumberland River. It is still illegal to gig, snag, or bowfish for trout.

QUAIL, RABBIT AND AN ELK FOR GOOD MEASURE



Landowner Incentive Program Biologist Jacob Stewart recently enjoyed a successful small game hunt on Begley Wildlife Management Area in southeast Kentucky. The elk passing by in the background makes it a great picture! Wildlife Division will be doing lots of small game habitat restoration on Begley in the coming year.

Donations bring archery to 2 Franklin County schools

Franklin County resident Ben Hicks died tragically while trimming a tree in his yard. However, his memory will live on thanks to the generosity of his family and his friends.

For in lieu of flowers, the family requested donations to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation to raise money to start a new National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) at a local school. Thanks to those donations, combined with others from parents and the National Wild Turkey Federation, the family raised enough money to start archery programs at Peaks Mill and Westridge elementary schools in Franklin County.

"My dad was the epitome of a man who lived life large, a man who was an avid archer," said his daughter, Kristi Wilkerson. "We wanted to do something



KDFWR's Chad Miles was joined by Miss Kentucky Kaitlynn Postel and a couple of young Franklin County archers in helping to announce two more schools in the Franklin County school system will be participating in the National Archery in the Schools program.

so that his legacy would live on."

Widow Donna Hicks said her husband had a big heart for children – and that he would have appreciated the donations that made the new archery programs possible.

Nationwide, more than a quarter million students are expected to participate in the archery in the schools program each year. The program, which began in Kentucky, is spreading to several foreign countries as well.

What Salato did on its winter vacation

"What will you all do if you're closed for two months?"

"Will you all be on vacation?"

Questions like these have been commonplace since we announced that Salato would close to the public for two months this winter.

Salato opened its doors in October, 1995 and has always been open year-round, but the visitation during December and January was so low that it simply made no sense to stay open. Instead, we decided to use the time of our CEPLs and Animal Care staff more wisely.

What do we do with ourselves when we don't have visitors? The answer is: A lot!

First and foremost, the animals don't quit eating just because no children are here to watch them do it. In fact, winter is the hardest part of the year for our Animal Care staff. Bedding has to be supplied for the bobcats and bears, extra hay and grain needs to be hauled to the hoofed stock, water lines can freeze and break, the Living

Stream waterfall super cools and freezes solid, creating ice dams and floods, and the pastures become muddy and dangerous.

When the mud freezes, deer, elk, and bison develop bruised feet. Perhaps one of our biggest challenges this year has been the poaching of big fish from the Living Stream. Brad Burge managed to capture one mink, but we know we have a couple more, and also an otter. When wildlife gets hungry, the Living Stream spells an easy meal!

On the education end of things, the first order of business was to fill vacant staff positions. You'll see some new faces at Salato this year, and all of them highly qualified to conduct interpretive programs, build temporary exhibits, and design new activities for the public.

Jamie Cook and Kristy Stroud are already on board and doing fantastic work! New CEPLs Chris Hunter and Emily Hogue will be starting just in time for things to get busy again.

Next on the list was to tackle a variety

of much needed changes and upgrades: projects we want to get done all year, but for which we have little time when dealing with wall-to-wall visitors.

Jamie and Kristy went immediately to work developing two new programs to offer to teachers. "Aquatic Ecosystems" (K-12) will focus on native aquatic species and habitats. "Wildlife Management" (6th grade and up) covers some of what our biologists and CO's do out there to help assure healthy populations. These programs are KERA compliant and we expect a good response.

Last time you visited, you probably noted that there were no signs on the outdoor exhibits. There still aren't ...but we're well on our way toward achieving that goal!

Spurred on by a new Salato Committee headed by Mark Cramer, and the promise of funding for signs by Commissioner Gasset, this work has begun in earnest.

Numerous grueling staff meet-

See "Salato," page 10

"Salato," continued

ings produced the text for six new signs that address not only the animals in the exhibit, but the role this agency plays in its management. On first glance, you wouldn't think it would take so long to write a few paragraphs about a bear or a deer, but it's harder than you think.

We want to touch on every aspect of this Agency in some way, from deer hunting to mussel research, boater safety to law enforcement. These signs have to be written at a level that can be understood by children and old-timers equally. The message must be one that hunters and non-hunters alike will actually want to read, and most importantly, it must be interpretive.

When the visitor walks away, we want them to think, "That was cool! I want to learn more!" Better yet, "I will make sure I buy a license before I leave!" Several of the signs we've completed are in the hands of the art staff for design and we continue to hammer away at those that remain.

The use of outdoor classrooms by teachers has decreased over the years. Kids are not getting outdoors, and we'd like to see that change. Mary Carol Cooper and Kristy Stroud have been working on creating an Outdoor Classroom Guide for teachers that encourages the use of native plants, as well as the four critical aspects of habitat: food, water, cover, and space. On April 5th, they will conduct a training program for educators titled "Connecting Kids With Nature: Creating an Outdoor Classroom." Go to the website and click on our Calendar of Events for this and all of our other programs.

The gift shop is no more... so what are we doing with that space? With the help of Adrienne Yancy and Obie Williams, we have a great new entryway planned. Once finished, visitors checking in will get a big, bold introduction to what the KDFWR is all about as they walk through a forested glade. With luck we will no longer be confused with Parks and Forestry - or the KSP.

Temporary exhibits are a big part of what we do and we have two in place now for the day we open the doors. One exhibit

KENTUCKY AFIELD'S TIM FARMER DRAWS HUGE CROWD IN LEXINGTON



Despite competition from the University of Kentucky-Alabama basketball game going on at the same time in the same city, more than 1,000 Tim Farmer fans showed up at Sportsman's Warehouse in Lexington Feb. 9 to meet the popular "Kentucky Afield" television show host in person.

Farmer originally planned to sign autographs and meet his fans from 1-2 p.m. However, with a line stretching to the back of the store for most of the afternoon, Farmer stayed an extra two hours to greet everyone who wanted to meet him.

"Kentucky Afield" television is on a mission to double its viewers in the next few years. Part of that plan includes airing the show on commercial television in addition to its two weekend airings on KET. Sportsman's Warehouse, one of the show's sponsors, is helping offset the costs of airing the program commercially.



is about the comeback of Bald Eagles in Kentucky, including a life-sized silhouette kids can compare their own wingspan to. The other is a mock camp in bear country, complete with do's and don'ts. These exhibits will be up for a month or two, and then will be replaced by an Earth Day exhibit and another on exotic invasive species.

We did not get everything finished that we had planned, but we are all very proud of how much we were able to accomplish by simply closing the doors for two months. Those doors re-open February 19th and I hope you all will come back to see what's new and say hello to our newest staff members!